

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Mechanized Division Eggesin

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EVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                     

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REFERENCES                     PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO & TYPE)                     

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REMARKS                     

This is UNEVALUATED

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1. On 17 May 1954, the KVP unit stationed at Altwarp was observed at aiming practices with guns. The guns were aimed at model aircraft moving along wires suspended between two pairs of wooden towers, 4 and 8 meters high respectively.
2. On 20 May 1954, a newly constructed barrack in Altwarp was turned over to the KVP AAA unit. The structure remained unoccupied because various defects were discovered. All guns and motor vehicles were housed in garages between the billets and the Haff. Since the status of training in gunnery proved to be above average during the inspections in early May 1954, emphasis was subsequently laid on infantry training. The strength of the AAA unit was estimated at about 400 men.
3. The strength of the driving-school unit in Altwarp again increased to over 200 men. Men of the unit were frequently observed at driving school practicing with three armored personnel carriers, one armored scout car, and some trucks.
4. On 18 May and 1 June 1954, about 130 T 34/85 tanks were parked in 10 garages of Spechtberg Installation. Each garage had 13 stalls, each of which contained one tank. Three other garages each of which had 13 stalls housed 39 IS tanks. As some of the tanks were covered with canvas the vehicles possibly included SP guns. Two other garages were under construction. About 12 six-wheeled armored personnel carriers were parked near the garages. The Spechtberg installation quartered about 1,000 men most of whom wore blue, some yellow-bordered black collar patches.
5. On 2 June 1954, about 12 apparently new Molotov signal trucks were observed in a shed in the area west of Karl Marx Strasse at the installation south of Eggesin. Twelve four-wheeled armored scout cars were stored in another shed. About 40 trucks were parked in the open.

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6. At 1900 on 24, 25 and 26 May, railroad shipments of two tanks each arrived at Eggesin from the direction of Pasewalk. The tanks which were unloaded on 24 May apparently were new T 34/85 tanks. The tanks were unloaded at night and moved to the installation south of Eggesin.<sup>2</sup>
7. Every night between 24 and 28 May 1954, two T 34/85 tanks were unloaded at the Eggesin railroad station and, after darkness apparently taken to the installation south of Eggesin.<sup>2</sup>
8. From 10 to 22 May, the troops quartered at the Karpin installation were given intensive training. Tank, infantry, artillery, mortar and signal units practiced outside the area of the installation. Reports of guns were daily heard from the direction of Jaegerbrueck. On the morning of 16 May, at least 1,000 men marched to Torgelov where they took part in an athletic competition.
9. At about 0900 on 10 May, a device similar to a "Panzerfaust" of the former German Army was observed with a detachment of 2 officers and 20 men who left the barracks installation.
10. On 4 June 1954, the Karpin installation quartered about 6,000 men. Small detachments with sidecar motorcycles mounting machine guns were observed practicing driving and aiming in the area of the Eggesin tar factory.
11. On 22 May 1954, garages with a total of 240 twin-stalls were under construction at Karpin. The construction of 150 additional twin-stall garages was planned. Garages completed in the billeting area included:  
Section A: 10 twin-stalls which contained 80 heavy mortars;  
Section B: 30 twin-stalls which contained 9 T 34 tanks, 11 armored personnel carriers, 6 other armored vehicles, 3 x 57-mm AT guns, 40 trucks, and about 60 sidecar motorcycles;  
Section C: 20 twin-stalls which contained 25 T 34 tanks, 6 armored personnel carriers, and 6 other armored vehicles;  
Section D: 30 twin-stalls which contained 25 T 34 tanks, 8 armored personnel carriers, 10 other armored vehicles, and 48 x 57-mm AT guns;  
Section E: 30 twin-stalls which contained about 60 x 57-mm AT guns, and 8 armored vehicles.<sup>2</sup>
12. From 20 to 29 May 1954, the KVP units quartered in the Karpin installation were subordinate to a division headquarters in Eggesin. Colonel Siegfried Weiss, commander of this division, [redacted] The Division had only about 85 percent of its authorized officer strength, and about 75 percent of its authorized EM strength. In the late summer, many of the soldiers will have completed their three-year term of service. 1,500 to 2,000 men of the units stationed at Karpin have decided to leave the KVP at the end of their term.
13. Sections C, D and E of the installation quartered the 1st, 2d and 3rd Mech Regts. Section B quartered an artillery regiment and another unit. The occupation of Section A was unknown.
14. Section D quartered the 2d Mech Regt. Building D-2 was occupied by the 1st Bn, the regimental school and the Party cabinet; Building D-3 by the 2d Bn, the technical service company, and the headquarters-and-supply platoon; Building D-4 by the artillery battalion, the AT battalion; and the headquarters company; Building D-5 by the 3d Bn and some special companies including the reconnaissance company and the AAA company; Building D-7 by the regimental headquarters.

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15. Officers of the regiment included Major Heckel (fnu), regimental commander; Major Schwenke (fnu), deputy commander; Lieutenant Colonel Geiling, (fnu), political officer; Captain Wolf (fnu), chief of staff; Captain Paul (fnu), commander of the 1st Bn; Senior Lieutenant Walter (fnu), commander of the 2d Bn; Senior Lieutenant Wendorf (fnu), commander of the 3d Bn; Senior Lieutenant Meier (fnu), commander of the artillery battalion; and Captain Fritz Seibert, commander of the C battalion. Major ~~Heinz Frank~~, former commander of the 2d Mech Regt, was made commander of the 3d Mech Regt, allegedly because of differences with his Soviet adviser.
16. Except for record firing, the status of training shown by the troops at the spring inspections was rather poor. In late May intensive training activity outside the area of the billets was resumed. Each unit had to hold one night practice per week.
17. Discipline and morale of the troops were bad. In late May it was necessary to relieve the complete guard of the installation because of drunkenness. On 1 May, numerous soldiers left the installation although they were restricted to quarters. There were quarrels between EM and officers and refusals to obey orders because of poor food, especially the shortage of potatoes. The morale was adversely affected by rumors that numerous KVPs who will have completed their three years' term of active service in the fall of 1954 would not be discharged.
18. It was ordered that the tents stored in the stock-room of the 2d Mech Regt be checked for serviceability and kept ready for use by 1 June 1954.
19. A commission from Berlin was expected to check weapons and technical equipment for serviceability in early June.
20. Officer candidates of the Treptow political officers' school were recently assigned to Division Eggesin for military training. This period of training was scheduled to terminate on 15 August 1954. On 30 May the officer candidates were suddenly recalled to Berlin.<sup>4</sup>

1. Comment. The total of 169 tanks and SP guns observed is apparently too high although most of the tank equipment of Division Eggesin is kept at the Spechtberg installation. 25X1
2. Comment. It is undetermined whether these 10 tanks were newly supplied or returned to the unit after being overhauled at the Neu-Brandenburg tank repair shop. 25X1
3. Comment. The number of mortars and AT guns is exaggerated. The mortar regiment quartered in Section A of the barracks installation is equipped with 54 to 60 x 122-mm mortars. It is believed that about 50 x 57-mm AT guns are available. The observation made confused other types of guns such as 76.2-mm guns with 57-mm AT guns. 25X1
4. Comment. It is believed that in May 1954 personnel of the Treptow political officers' school and, probably, the Biesdorf guard regiment was rotated to various KVP units for training. Trains observed on 22 May probably carried troops returning to Berlin-Treptow and Biesdorf from the area of Korps Nord. These men were either employed in Berlin during the Whitman Rally of the FDJ or recalled to their units in view of their move from Berlin to Strausberg. 25X1

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